

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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TAGS: ASEC, US, CG, PDIP, PFOR

SUBJECT: PROTEST AT TREATMENT ACCORDED ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATS
IN NEW YORK

REF: KINSHASA'S A-34

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ZAIRE MISSION WITH REGARD TO CASES INVOLVING ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATS, WHICH WERE REFERRED TO BY OFFICER OF ZAIRIAN DEPARTMENT OF RFOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR.

2. A CAPITULATION OF CASES SHOULD BE USEFUL.
SUMMARIES OF CASES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TREATMENT AT JFK AIRPORT OF NDONGALA TADI LEWA, ZAIRE STATE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE IN AUGUST 1974: ZAIRE MISSION MEMBERS WHO MET LEWA IN CUSTOMS AREA FELT IT WAS IMPROPER FOR IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR TO CHECK LEWA'S PASSPORT AT TIME OF HIS ENTRY INTO US. A CHECK OF IMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS INDICATED THAT REQUEST BY IMMIGRATION INSPECTOR WAS PERFECTLY IN ORDER. IT WAS ASCERTAINED THAT COMPLAINT WAS NOT JUSTIFIED AND ZAIRE MISSION WAS SO INFORMED.

B. TOW AWAY OF DIPLOMATIC CARS BY NYPD: ON FEBRUARY 21, 1974, NYPD TOWED COUNSELLR EMANY MATA LIKAMBE'S NEW 1974 PONTIAC FROM IN FRONT OF FIRE HYDRANT TO POUND.

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HE WAS FURIOUS AND SAID HE WOULD NOTIFY APPROPRIATE

ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS. WE EXPLAINED THAT PARKING NEXT TO FIRE HYDRANT WAS VERY SERIOUS OFFENSE. NYPD TOWS DPL VEHICLES ONLY FOR SERIOUS OFFENSES WHICH ENDANGER SAFETY OR OBSTRUCT TRAFFIC. WE ARE MAKING GREAT EFFORT IN NEW YORK TO PERSUADE DIPLOMATS TO OBEY TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND ZAIRE MISSION MAY BE UNHAPPY OVER PRESSURES CREATED.

C. BEMBOY CASE: DURING GAS CRISIS IN NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY 1974, BABA BEMBOY, SECOND SECRETARY OF ZAIRE MISSION, WHILE WAITING IN GAS LINE AT GAS STATION, WAS REQUESTED TO LEAVE HIS CAR AND QUESTIONED BY POLICE OFFICERS WHO THOUGHT HE WAS DRIVING A STOLEN CAR. WHEN POLICE ASCERTAINED HIS IDENTITY HE WAS PERMITTED TO LEAVE. COMPLAINT WAS SUBMITTED TO CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD, WHICH REVIEWED CASE, AND IN AUGUST 1974 ADVISED THAT COMPLAINT BY BEMBOY WAS UNSUBSTANTIATED. HE WAS SO INFORMED.

3. ZAIRE MISSION CONTINUES TO BE PROBLEM FOR US IN NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION: FROM OCTOBER 1974 THROUGH FEBRUARY 1975, MISSION OFFICERS RECEIVED 387 PARKING SUMMONSES. 39 OF THESE CONSTITUTED MAJOR VIOLATIONS. OUR RECORDS ALSO INDICATE THAT ZAIRE MISSION HAS OUTSTANDING BILLS OF \$21,919.28. ALTHOUGH APPROACHES HAVE BEEN MADE TO AMBASSADOR MUTUALE, DEBT PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN SOLVED. AS RESULT, HOUSING FOUNDATION WHICH GUARANTEES DIPLOMATIC LEASES HAS DECLINED TO RECOMMEND ANY GUARANTEES FOR ZAIRE MISSION DIPLOMATS UNTIL DEBTS ARE PAID.

4. WE ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS IN NEW YORK. IT IS IMPORTANT HOWEVER THAT EMBASSY-KINSHASA BE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE ENCOUNTERING WITH ZAIRE MISSION. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE, THAT OUT OF 138 UN MISSIONS IN NEW YORK, ZAIRE MISSION STANDS OUT AS ONE OF TOP FIVE MISSIONS IN INDEBTEDNESS.
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